

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Karl P. Donfried, Professor of Religion, Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts, offered the following prayer:

Standing as we do in the large confusions of the world not accustomed to peace, we pray, O Lord, gird us with newness of vision that our steps may be straightened to Your will and our decisions enlightened by Your spirit. In the fog and fury of this anguished age, keep the inner world of heart and mind clear and strong, that we be not buffeted from our course by the wild winds of confusion and seas of bitterness. Discipline us to sharpen our insight and open our hearts on all sides and so guide us to make wise judgments. Lay Your hand upon us, O God, that we may be healed and made whole in the fullness of Your love. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIBBONS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND KARL P. DONFRIED TO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me today to speak this afternoon about a constituent of mine, Reverend Karl Donfried, who offered the opening prayer here in the House of Representatives on this day. I would like to use 60 seconds to both welcome and introduce him to the House of Representatives.

Reverend Donfried is a professor and chairman of the Department of Religion and Biblical Literature at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. He has been a member of Smith's faculty for more than 30 years.

Reverend Donfried is deeply involved in the religious community at Smith College and in the ecumenical movement in western Massachusetts. He developed the Ecumenical School of Theology in Springfield's Christ Church Cathedral, where he has served as the Ecumenical Canon of the Cathedral since 1977.

He chaired the Lutheran Roman Catholic Committee of New England and was appointed to co-chair the New Testament Panel of the National Lutheran Roman Catholic Dialogue.

A theologian and a scholar, Reverend Donfried has taught at Brown University, Amherst College, Mount Holyoke College, and Assumption College.

I use this opportunity today on behalf of the House of Representatives to extend a heartfelt welcome to Reverend Karl Donfried.

REPUBLICANS STOP 30-YEAR RAID ON SOCIAL SECURITY—NO TURNING BACK NOW

(Mr. ARMEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, every now and then we get to witness history. We all watched in awe as Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa shattered the home-run record. We all watched with triumph as the Berlin Wall came down. And, Mr. Speaker, we all watched with splendid anticipation as AL GORE was inventing the Internet.

Well, Mr. Speaker, history has been made again today. This morning the Congressional Budget Office reported that because Republicans have held the line on spending in fiscal year 1999, there was \$1 billion of on-budget surplus.

That is right. In fiscal year 1999, Republicans stopped the 30-year raid on Social Security. In fiscal year 1999, Republicans stopped President Clinton from spending Social Security and put the needs of seniors ahead of the needs of bureaucrats. Mr. Speaker, that means that \$126 billion in debt reduction has taken place in fiscal year 1999.

Mr. Speaker, we did not spend one penny of Social Security in 1999. We stopped the raid. Mr. Speaker, there is no turning back now.

REGULATIONS COST TAXPAYERS \$400 BILLION YEARLY

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the Gettysburg Address is 286 words. The Declaration of Independence is 1,322 words. Government regulations on the sale of cabbage is 27,000 words.

Mr. Speaker, now if that is not enough to stuff your cabbage roll, regulations cost taxpayers \$400 billion a year, \$4,000 per every family each and every year, year in and year out.

Unbelievable. It is so bad, if a dog urinates in a parking lot, the EPA declares it a wetland.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. I yield back 2,800,000 words in our Tax Code.

RUBY HILL MINE IN EUREKA, NEVADA, RECEIVES EXCELLENCE IN MINE RECLAMATION AWARD

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, for far too long now we only hear the misleading statements from the environmental extremists about the perils of mining.

Well, folks, there is more than fried cabbage here today. There is actually some good news worth listening to.

In my district outside of Eureka, Nevada, the Ruby Hill Mine, owned by the Homestake Mining Company, has received the Environmental Excellence in Mine Reclamation Award.

Yes, my colleagues heard it, mining is good for the environment. This award was given to Homestake Mining Company because they exhibited outstanding innovation in its design, mitigation, and concurrent reclamation progress.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that mining and the environment can coexist; they can work together and ensure that the environment is not hurt by mining and that we as Americans can still benefit from mining and enjoy the quality of life that we now know.

I would like to congratulate the Homestake Mining Company for their dedication, forethought, and hard work in demonstrating that mining has learned to work with the environment.

I yield back the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker, and all the negative misconceptions about mining and its importance to our country.

VOTE DOWN H.R. 3036

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, here is a picture that I used earlier today of a truck that killed people in a car. Here is another major truck accident.

Today in the House we may very well bring up H.R. 3036, which rolls back truck safety.

In 1998, there were 5,374 deaths with regard to trucks. In 1997, there were 5,398 deaths with regard to trucks.

It is like a major airplane crash taking place every two weeks. If that happened, the Congress would be up in arms.

Why would the Congress now be rolling back what the Congress did with regard to truck safety? H.R. 3036 takes a step backward.

If we do this, every time we pick up the newspaper and see that somebody is being killed in a truck accident, we are going to feel very bad.

I hope that the Congress votes this down if H.R. 3036 comes up.